

Section 7: Technical Assistance

This section of the HIV Prevention Plan for 2003-2004 describes how the HIV/AIDS Administration (HAA) and the HIV Prevention Community Planning Group (HPCPG) will assess and meet the capacity building needs of community-based organizations that provide HIV prevention services in the District of Columbia, as well as the needs of the HPCPG and HAA. Technical assistance in the area of evaluation is described in the evaluation plan described in Section 8: Evaluation.

Technical Assistance Needs of CBOs

CBOs have been found to be in need of capacity building technical assistance in the design, implementation and evaluation of effective HIV prevention interventions and in organizational management. HAA will meet those needs through different approaches in 2003 and 2004:

Program Planning and Implementation:

- HAA will obtain assistance from the CDC-funded STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers in New York and Denver to provide training on behavioral and social interventions to the staff of CBOs that are providing or intend to provide HIV prevention services in the District. Training would be offered in such areas as applying behavioral theory to HIV prevention, conducting community-based assessments of needs, and designing and implementing specific interventions, including outreach, individual prevention counseling, prevention case management and group level interventions.
- On an ongoing basis, staff from the Prevention and Intervention Services Division will assess the TA needs of sub-grantees and provide them that TA, either directly or through other resources, including training activities. Regular meetings with providers keep the Program Managers and other staff current on providers' needs and foster an open, communicative, and responsive relationship between the Department of Health and providers.
- HAA will make travel funds available for the staff of sub-grantees to attend the National HIV Prevention Conference to be held in July 2003 in Atlanta, Ga.
- HAA will provide training activities for sub-grantees on issues related to cultural competency to provide services to all populations; on substance abuse, including training on stages of abuse and harm reduction models of care treatment; on mental health, including training on the relationship of mental health to HIV risks; and on sexuality and gender, including training on the intersection between gender roles, gender identity, sexuality, and HIV risks.
- HAA will continue to provide training on counseling and testing and on partner counseling and referral services, and will continue to provide opportunities for staff of HAA sub-grantees to attend national, CDC-sponsored train-the-trainer activities on HIV counseling and testing and on partner counseling and referrals;
- HAA will continue to provide technical assistance to programs serving populations that may be at risk for HIV, to help them establish their own HIV prevention programs or linkages to existing programs that can provide prevention services for their clients.
- To determine if there are other areas in which sub-grantees may need capacity-building technical assistance, HAA and the HPCPG will conduct an assessment of the capacity building needs of HIV prevention programs in the areas of program planning, implementation and evaluation, by

September 30, 2003. Based on the findings of the assessment, HAA will develop and implement a plan to meet those beginning in January 2004. This will include an assessment of the need to provide services that are linguistically and culturally appropriate, and how those needs are being met.

Evaluation

Section 8 of the HIV Prevention Plan addresses the provision of technical assistance to CBOs in the area of evaluation.

Administrative capacity

- HAA will fund one or more organizations to provide capacity building services for CBOs. The subcontractor/s will conduct on-site needs assessments of approximately six CBOs each year to identify the strengths and areas for improvement of the CBOs in such functional areas as Board Development, Fiscal Management, Human Resources, Prevention Intervention, Resource Development and Grant Writing. The subcontractor/s would then develop and implement action plans to provide capacity building technical assistance in the areas identified through the assessments of needs.
- HAA will provide funds directly to approximately six sub-grantees each year, to allow them to subcontract TA.
- HAA will seek assistance for sub-grantees from the CDC-funded Capacity-Building Assistance Providers, such as the National Minority AIDS Council and PROCEED, in the areas of organizational infrastructure and financial administration.

Technical Assistance Needs of the HPCPG

HAA and the HPCPG provide technical assistance to HPCPG members in several ways, including:

- Organizing and conducting new member orientations and education;
- Making presentations of epidemiologic data and education on its interpenetration and use;
- Making travel funds available for the community and government co-chairs, and other HPCPG members, to travel to the annual Community Planning Leadership Summits.

In addition, the staff of HAA's Prevention and Intervention Services Division and Data and Research Division works very closely with the CPG and its committees, assessing their needs regularly and providing the necessary support.

In a recent survey, HPCPG members identified several areas in which they would like to receive training or other types of technical assistance, including:

- Recruitment of new HPCPG members from underrepresented populations;
- Assessing community resources;
- Use of epidemiologic data and other data;
- Substance abuse / harm reduction;

- Identification of unmet HIV prevention needs.

Technical Assistance Needs of HAA staff

HAA has identified the need for technical assistance for itself in the following areas:

HE/RR: Technical assistance is needed to improve the capacity of HAA staff to design and provide training on the design and implementation of effective HIV prevention interventions, and to assess the capacity of sub-grantees to provide effective HIV prevention interventions.

CTS: Technical assistance is needed on evaluating the effectiveness of different strategies to reach high-risk groups and determine what are the appropriate strategies to use for different populations; determining why people do not return to get their HIV test results and how to improve the return rate.

Plans to address these needs in 2003 and 2004:

HE/RR: HAA will seek TA from the CDC and the CDC-funded STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers in New York and Denver to increase the capacity of HAA staff to provide training to sub-grantees in such areas as applying behavioral theory to HIV prevention, conducting community based assessments of needs, and designing and implementing specific interventions, including outreach, individual prevention counseling, prevention case management and group level interventions.

HAA will also continue to provide opportunities for HIV Prevention staff members to attend conferences, classes and educational programs and trainings locally and nationally (e.g., Community Planning Leadership Summit, the 2003 National HIV Prevention Conference, harm reduction conferences).

CTS: HAA is one of six sites where the CDC is evaluating CTS services. HAA will seek assistance from the CDC in conducting studies to determine why people do or do not get tested and why they do or do not return for their results, and how to improved return rates.